

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY

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TAGS: EAID, CT, US

SUBJECT: BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REFS: A) CARDWELL/QUAINTON LETTER, 6/23/76

B) CARDWELL LETTER 7/7/76; C) BANGUI A-050, 6/25/76

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. AT JUNE 13 AID ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION (ABS) REVIEW OF US BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN CAR, AID OFFICIALS, INCLUDING NEWLY-APPOINTED DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR AFRICA (HAVEN NORTH), VOICED CONCERN OVER PAUCITY OF US DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE UNDERWAY IN CAR. AF/C REPRESENTATIVE TO ABS MEETING EMPHASIZED THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO OUR RELATIONS WITH THE CAR--A STRONG AND CONSISTENT SUPPORTER OF US POLICIES IN MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS.

2. AS YOU REALIZE THE U.S. HAS VASTLY AUGMENTED ITS DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN THE SAHEL COUNTRIES. FOR FY '78 A 60 MILLION DOLLARS IS BEING PROPOSED FOR CHAD. THE DISPARITY BETWEEN THE SAHELIAN PROGRAMS AND WHAT IS

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PROPOSED FOR CAR IS DRAMATIC. AT THE ABS SOME DISCUSSION

EXPLORED THE NEED FOR A MORE ARTICULATE AID POLICY FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION IN AFRICA. THIS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE EXAMINED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING CONCERNS, CLEAR REQUIREMENT FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN CAR, AND THE COUNTRY'S RECENT POLITICAL PERFORMANCE, IT APPEARS A STRONG CASE CAN BE MADE AT THIS TIME FOR INCREASED U.S. AID LEVELS. NORTH ENCOURAGED THOSE ATTENDING MEETING TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANDING CAR PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTENT OF CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE AND COMMENSURATE WITH U.S. POLICIES. AS YOU MAY REALIZE, THE THRUST OF THE MANDATE FOCUSES AID ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION, HEALTH AND POPULATION, EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO HAVE A DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE IMPACT UPON THE RURAL POOR. PROJECTS THAT DO NOT MEET THESE CRITERIA FREQUENTLY POSE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS FOR AID.

4. IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO THE FOREGOING, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU WOULD CABLE YOUR VIEWS ON THE FOLLOWING: WHAT SIZE U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WOULD APPEAR APPROPRIATE FOR U.S. INTERESTS IN THE CAR (AN ANNUAL PROGRAM OF 2-3 MILLION MIGHT BE SALEABLE)? HOW DO YOU ASSESS THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOCAR WITH REGARD TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT? WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE MAJOR CONSTRAINTS TO INCREASED U.S. ASSISTANCE EFFORTS? CAN YOU IDENTIFY OUT OF HAND ANY SPECIFIC PROJECTS, (HOPEFULLY WITH DOLLAR MAGNITUDES) WHICH MEET THE CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE AS DESCRIBED ABOVE AND WHICH MIGHT BE FUNDED IN FY '78. (IF AID WERE TO INCREASE THE FY '78 PROGRAM LEVEL, PROJECTS WOULD HAVE TO BE CARRIED TO AN INTERMEDIATE DESIGN STAGE BY NOVEMBER OF THIS YEAR). IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO THIS LINE OF INQUIRY, WOULD SOME ASSISTANCE FROM AID/W BE USEFUL FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH YOURSELF AND GOCAR? (OF COURSE, YOU HAVE RDO/Y FROM WHICH YOU MAY DRAW IMMEDIATE AID ADVICE AND COUNCIL).

5. YOUR EXCELLENTLY PRESENTED PARA (REF C) LENDS ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION FOR NEW AID INITIATIVES IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAR. AS A RESULT OF ABS REVIEW, AID IS TAKING STEPS TO ASSIGN AN AID PROGRAM OFFICER TO CAR. YOUR PROPOSAL FOR JOINT PC/UNDCF/AID SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, FORWARDED UNDER COVER OF REF B HAS BEEN SENT TO AID FOR CONSIDERATION. WE HAVE ALSO ASKED AID TO TAKE FOLLOW UP ACTION REGARDING PROPOSAL FOR A CRS DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.

6. RESPONSE SHOULD BE SLUGGED "FOR AF ONLY". THIS

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